

OPC BULLETIN



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'Old Pro' night to honor Bob Considine, 'Mr. OPC,' Sept. 18

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 4, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Terence Smith, The New York Times — Bureau Chief — Jerusalem, "Assignment in Israel."

Tuesday, September 9, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Flora Lewis The New York Times — Bureau Chief — Paris.

Thursday, September 11 — Private screening at 6 and 8:30 p.m. of "Three for the Condor," at Paramount studios, No. 1 Gulf and Western Plaza at Columbus Circle.

Thursday, September 18, 5:30-8 p.m. — "Old Pro Night", honoring Mr. OPC Himself — *Bob Considine*. Reservations required.

(Continued on page 3)

On Thursday, September 18, the OPC Reunion Committee will sponsor another in its series of "Old Pro Nights" for distinguished newsmen — this one to honor *Bob Considine*, columnist, correspondent, author, TV-radio commentator and two-time president of the Overseas Press Club.

Bob's myriad (Webster's definition: "10,000 persons or more") friends from Peoria to Peking are invited to join OPC members in a toast to Mr. OPC Himself — a great reporter (voted one of the 20th Century's top 10 by Sigma Delta Chi), a great raconteur, a great guy. Also the only person to get hurt in a balloon accident since the fall of the Hindenberg. Bob learned the hard way that saloons are safer than balloons.

In the 44 years since 1931, when he wrote a tennis column for the Washington Post, Bob has covered all the story-making people, places, and things of our times — seven presidents

(Roosevelt to Ford), three wars (World War II, Korea, Vietnam), two detente missions to Moscow and China.

Somewhere along the way, he found time to write 26 books — including "It's All News to Me," "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," and, just this year, "The Remarkable Life of Dr. Armand Hammer." Plus his King Features column, "On The Line With Bob Considine," which appears thrice weekly in top-circulation newspapers in the U.S. and 14 foreign countries.



BOB CONSIDINE

Brave man that he is, Bob served two terms as president of the OPC: 1947-48, 1954-55. His preparation for that most difficult of all diplomatic assignments: early in his career, Bob was a clerk in the U.S. State Department (under Hoover's Henry L. Stimson).

Join us September 18, for a nostalgic nod to one of newsdom's all-time Old Pros. Cocktails from 5:30 to 8:00 P.M. Memory Lane musings at 8 P.M., Tab \$1.00, to cover extra bartenders and mailing costs. Hors d'oeuvres courtesy of F. D'Angelo, Gen'l Mgr., King Features Syndicate. Drinks you pay for as you go. Reservations are required. Phone Mary Novak at 687-2430. —Ed Cunningham

EAT, DRINK WITH US AT OPC!

American misunderstanding of Asians Chief bar to sharp reporting: Schanberg

A joint Deadline Club (Sigma Delta Chi) and OPC venture honoring 41-year-old, dark-bearded Sydney H. Schanberg, New York Times correspondent, packed the Shop-Talk Luncheon, August 13th.

Whether or not Schanberg had "defied" his editors to stay on in Cambodia during the last days of the Indo-China war, he said that they had "supported" his decision to remain. As a result, he wrote some of the most

vivid and important of all the last minute news stories of the evacuation of Pnom Penh and the taking over by the Communists.

"I think," he said, "the most important thing I came out of Cambodia with was the fact that all the Western assumptions (reporters, too) we had made about the Cambodians and "the other side," were flawed or completely

(Continued on page 2)



President Raymond and guest chat with Schanberg before lunch. Photo by Helen Mendel

Schanberg

(Continued from page 1)

wrong." He said this was true also of the U.S. Embassy there.

"We Westerns simply do not understand Asians. That is why we get these notions about them, which are absolutely wrong."

Furthermore, he said, it is going to do us no good to tell how barbaric the Communists are. "We know they have done cruel things." But that is not going to get us anywhere," he said. "I have friends there. And I can speak of barbarism with much more emotion than Henry Kissinger (who has no friends there). It would be more constructive, much wiser for us to make a very severe effort to find out *who* they are. Now, they are mysteries to us, as I have written for TheTimes... Nothing had prepared us for these hard-line, ideological peasant revolutionaries."

Schanberg emphasized the fact that if we are interested in having an understanding rather than confrontation, we have got to try to know them better, not just have Western assumptions about how they should behave.

As to the reporter staying on when his paper has requested his return, "I think the decision *must* be a personal one." He said it had nothing to do with "courage" and that the reporter is not thinking in those terms. "I was obsessed to stay and I stayed. It was a purely personal decision. The reporter himself must make the decision."

Schanberg paid tribute to his New York Times stringer friend, a "beautiful, courageous" man. Dith Pran. The true story of that heroic Cambodian must wait, however, perhaps until Schanberg's book, which has just been contracted for by Random House is published. In this, he will also stress the importance of Westerners understanding and respecting their Indo-China neighbors, "brown skin, slant eyes and all." We've got to care more for these people, says Schanberg. "Keeping these people out of the U.N. is not caring. It is not a policy, either. Nor calling them barbarians — that is not a policy."

After a spirited Q and A, the Luncheon ended with Schanberg's final word: "If the per capita income and the social conditions of an area improved, then if you look to that fact, Communism will not spread."

Jack Raymond, president of the OPC presided. Larry Stessen, chairman of the Shop-Talk Luncheons introduced the speaker. James Greenfield, foreign editor of the New York Times, and Mike Kandell, president of the Deadline Club, were on the dais.

—Grace Naismith

Considine and his remarkable balloon saga; OPC's Phileas Phogg makes it up - and down

Earlier this summer Bob Considine, for reasons yet unclear, decided to make a balloon flight from a cliff high above Lake Tahoe, Nev. At one point he rose to eight thousand feet, but the direction, point of landing and estimated arrival time apparently were unknown either to him or his young navigator.

Although the adventure offered him opportunity to become intimately acquainted with at least two hospitals, Bob didn't complain. Why? Because he never wastes anything. Following are some of the highlights from three columns about his levitation and fall from grace (if that was the balloon's name), courtesy of King Features Syndicate.

* * *

● RENO — People have been writing me for years, stating that I am full of hot air. So I decided the other day that I'd like to learn what it really feels like to be full of hot air.

● My pilot, Randy, ordered his ground crew, about a dozen youngsters, to lift me into the basket. It was considered one of the major feats of a memorable day. So off we soared into the wild blue yonder, each a rainbow shaped like a blob of paint instead of an arc. Everybody waved, as if we were headed for Mozambique.

"If we brush the tree tops clearing it, just hang on," Randy said. "But we'll be okay. I've been at this for a year and a half." But a 100-foot tree had the nerve to loom up right in the middle of our descent path.

● "Get ready!" Randy shouted. "We're going to hit."

I learned later that what happened was that an errant wind took charge of the bag, sped us across a road, and slammed us against a rocky embankment that reaches up from the road.

● The main memory I have after we hit like a ton of bricks is of being bounced around on the cluttered floor of the basket like a fat pea in big maraca.

● NEW YORK — The best thing about being banged up in a balloon crash is that it makes so many of your friends happy.

"That's the craziest thing I've heard in years," said a friend who visited me in the first of the three hospitals I've been in since... "Nobody's been hurt in a balloon crash since the Hindenburg." And then he burst into uncontrolled laughter.

When my pal Toots Shor saw a clinical photo of the 2-foot-by-2-foot black bruise on my butt and leg, it made his day. Roared for an hour.

● Many kind of people have given me advice to keep one foot on the ground. The soundest suggestion came from Gen. Jimmy Doolittle: "It has recently come to my attention, through the medium of the public press, that you have — as a result of acronauting — been bent almost to the point of criticality."

"Real sorry that you have had this difficulty and would like to offer a suggestion and promise: 'If you will stay out of my business I'll stay out of yours.'"

Get out your dancing shoes

The Friday September 26 Harvest Moon Supper Dance (6-9 p.m.) follows the highly successful and dreamy Midsummer Eve Dance as the Club adventures into night clubbery.

The dining room will be suitably under-lighted and otherwise transformed. The buffet supper will be abundant and attractive, and Jimmie Wright and his trio will be out front with a repertory of dance music guaranteed to set you swinging, waltzing, jitterbugging, and otherwise jangling easy as you go.

As Midsummer Eve Dance alumni say, "Where else could you find an atmosphere like this, a dance floor like this, at these prices?"

Reservations pronto, please. The tab is \$9 per person, for supper and dance.

Ruth Biemiller

House Operations Chairperson

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CALENDAR

(Continued from page 1)

Friday, September 19, 5:30-7 p.m. — Opening of "Jazz Panorama," photo exhibit by *Helen Mandel*, covering famous names in jazz who have performed at OPC and salute to "Keyboard Genius," Jazz Club benefit for OPC Foundation, Oct. 2.

Monday, September 22, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Patricia Carbine Publisher and Editor-in-Chief MS Magazine.

Thursday, September 25, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Sally Quinn General Assignment — The Washington Post and author, "We're Going to Make You a Star."

Tuesday, September 30, (Correction on Date) — Talking Shop With Eleanor Perry, Film maker, Screen Writer Midge Kovacs.

Monday, October 6, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With John Barnett Editor, Page One Wall Street Journal.

Tuesday, October 14, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Russell Baker Columnist, New York Times.

Wednesday, October 22, 5:30-7 p.m. — Talking Shop With Harry Arouh Author of "Confessions of an Ex-TV News Reporter."

Make reservations now for Iran nite

The OPC Iran Regional dinner will be held Tuesday, September 16. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:30. Reserve seating will be accepted and individual seats can also be taken at unreserved tables. For a better seating selection, arrive early and leave a card at your table while you enjoy a cocktail.

On the menu is Iranian Beluga caviar, lamb orientale (lamb with rice, nuts and fruit), baklava with fresh Iranian pistachio nuts and rose wine. You will dine while listening to Iranian music. In addition a 15-minute film called "A New Day," sponsored by the Iranian Office, will be shown.

Other activities for the evening include a raffle of a round-trip ticket to Teheran, Iran, Iranian embroidery, hand-blown glass and a bottle of vodka. No one will go home empty-handed. If you are not one of the lucky winners you will receive a souvenir instead.

The charge for Iranian night will be \$12.50 per person including tax and gratuities. To make your reservations please call Mary Novick at MU 7-2430. Make your reservations soon to facilitate reservations.

—Stella Margold

Eubie Blake, Billy Taylor will join Earl 'Fatha' Hines for Oct. 2 benefit

Speculations and rumors have been flying, but it's now definite that the "Keyboard Genius" program to benefit the Overseas Press Club Foundation, Thursday, October 2, in the Biltmore grand ballroom, will be a triumphant trio spanning long eras of the jazz piano. The beloved King of Ragtime and 92-year-old veteran of every era, Eubie Blake; Billy Taylor, the dazzling vanguard of contemporary piano; and Earl "Fatha" Hines, OPC Jazz Club's honorary president and international "Hall of Fame" wizard of the 88s, will be at the key boards.

Hines, who recently returned from Europe, confirmed the appearance of his colleagues with jazz committee chairman, Wilma Dobie and commented: "I think it will be a magic time for all. Believe me, we're going to make some jazz history come October 2."

Making jazz history is doing what comes naturally with these jazz giants. Each is unique and has achieved a spectacular reputation as artist, composer, arranger, teacher, and distinguished spokesman in the world of jazz.

Born in Baltimore, February 7, 1883, Mr. Blake holds the undisputed record for time at the keyboard, composing, and teaching. He was scarcely 16-years-old when he created his first smash hit, "Charleston Rag," in 1899 and has been turning them out ever since. The Broadway bound musical, "Bubbling Brown Sugar,"

will feature his music. The peppy, indomitable Eubie is beloved throughout the world and his contributions to jazz are incomparable.

The impact of Earl "Fatha" Hines on jazz pianists is profound. One critic put it: "He freed the piano from slavery in the big band and raised it to solo eminence."

He is an immortal in the history of jazz." His brilliant technique brought the piano into the mainstream of jazz starting in the '20's and almost every jazz pianist since has been influenced in some way by his playing.

Billy Taylor matches his superb piano with articulate spokespersonship for the cultural jazz art form.

In his untiring efforts

to present jazz at every level of society, he has as president of JAZZMOBILE these past 11 years, taken free outdoor jazz concerts to almost every corner of Manhattan and surrounding communities.

Additionally, he serves and works diligently on countless civic and governmental agencies, including the President's Council on the Arts. The composer of over 300 songs and author of twelve books on jazz and jazz piano playing, he is universally recognized as a dynamic originator of contemporary jazz. "Of all the things I do professionally," he says, "I both give and get most from playing the piano."

— Wilma Dobie



BILLY TAYLOR

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WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN & HOW

By GRACE NAISMITH

PUBLISHING: Jack O'Dwyer's Directory of Corporate Communications for 1975 is out. It lists profiles and duties of PR people in 1,300 companies, nation-wide. Reduced rate for journalists — \$47.50... **Betty Wason**, back after five expatriate years in Portugal and now living in Arlington, Va., has a book on home improvement for US News, another on giving cheese and wine tasting parties, for Grosset & Dunlap, and a special book about her daughter, tentatively called "Ellen," to be published next spring by Reader's Digest Press. Comment: "I think everyone in the writing profession should live abroad for a while to have a better appreciation of the good things here."... **Herb Silverman's** photo feature, "There's a Lovable Killer Whale in Texas," in the August issue of Place, Braniff in-flight magazine... Modern Maturity using **Lillian G. Genn's** article, "A Conversation with Walter Cronkite."... **Sylvia Schur**, food and consumer news editor, is the author of a new book, "Creative Cooking in 30 Minutes," published by Simon & Schuster. Gives quick cooking time for journalists' deadlines.

TRAVELING: Rosalind Massow heads a number of OPC members, including **Myra Waldo**, **Robert Fisher** and **Bern Keating** on an American Society of Travel Writers trip around the world — to "invite the world to America's Bicentennial." Flying date, Sept. 13... "Let's Go Traveling with **Marjorie Young**," on WAM-WCAC-FM Sunday mornings at 9:35 a.m. from Anderson, S.C. Marjorie's "South Carolina Fodor Guide" she writes, sold 6,000,000 copies world wide.

NEW LOOK: Jim Wessel, director of special projects for AP, succeeds Joe Bradis, as broadcast executive, Bradis will be handling regional membership executive relations with AP stations in New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. He suffered a heart attack last year; has had 25 years service with AP... **Norman A. Schorr**, veteran PR executive, head of Norman A. Schorr and Co., Inc. since 1952 has joined forces with Edward F. Howard Corp. to form Schorr and Howard Company, Corporate Communications, at 6 East 43 Street, N.Y.... **Thomas B. Mechling**, co-editor of Washington Watch, a newsletter, reports that his Public Equity Corp. is about to go public. "Its overriding aim," PEC's initiators are quoted by John Cunniff of AP, as saying, "is to assist corporations, governmental agencies and institutions to become more open, rational and responsive to citizens,

needs." Whatever that means... **Jack O'Dwyer** explains it also in his July Newsletter.

HONORS: Helen Alexander Campbell, Ojai, Calif., listed in "Who's Who of American Women," 1975... **Li Ling Ai**, recently chosen by the National Association of Women Artists of New York for its special Bicentennial list of International Women of 1975. Miss Li spoke at the National Gallery of Arts at the acceptance

ceremony on "The Future of Women in the Arts." In Honolulu this summer, the Chinese author writes of her brother's death: "gone to visit the peach gardens of eternity."

And speaking of Hawaii, **John Luter** was seen in N.Y., N.Y. recently. He's professor of journalism at the Univ. of Honolulu.

WANTED: News of **Donald G. Cooley**, Denver OPC'er; **Lydia Carter**; **Egbert White**; **Frank W. Chinnock**; and **Michael G. Crissan**.

OPC Foundation Benefit Tickets

Mail order tickets for the OPC Foundation jazz benefit — "Keyboard Genius" with Earl "Fatha" Hines, Eubie Blake, Billy Taylor on Oct. 2, Grand Ballroom, 8 p.m. — must be received by Wednesday, September 24. Mary Novick will have available advance tickets at \$5.00 each through Wednesday, Oct. 1. After these cut-off dates, tickets will be \$7.50 at the door. Tax deductible checks should be made out to the OPC Foundation.



OPC BULLETIN

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